biomass, increasing ground water recharge in addition to production of fuel and fodder for the local people.

Expenditure on Foreign Travel

2674. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure on foreign travels undertaken by the officials of his Ministry in the last five years;

(b) the countries and the purpose of the visit; and

(c) whether any report(s) were submitted by them and action taken thereon; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

खजुराहो के लिए रेल लाइन

2675. **श्री गोविन्द राम मिरी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि खजुराहो के लिए रेल सुविधा कब तक उपलब्ध करा दी जायेगी और इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): महोबा से खजुराहो तक रेल संपर्क की व्यवस्था के लिये सर्वेक्षण कार्य अभी पूरा हुआ है। क्षेत्रीय रेलवे के विचार-विमर्श से सर्वेक्षण के परिणामों को अंतिम रूप दिया जा रहा है। सर्वेक्षण के परिणामों को अंतिम रूप दिये जाने के बाद योजना आयोग के विचार-विमर्श से परियोजना पर आगे विचार किया जाएगा।

Poor Condition of Rail Coaches in Kerala

2676. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway coaches which are in use in Kerala are very old and are not rail worthy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many coaches taken for maintenance and repair are not returned to Trivandrum Division and the trains are running with reduced number of coaches; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the conditions of the coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. The coaches working in Kerala area are all within the useful economic life of a coach, comparatively younger in age and maintained in safe working condition.

(b) The coaches are sometimes detached and taken for maintenance attention. However, alternative coaches are provided and the trains in Trivandrum Division are running with proper composition.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal to Declare Primary Education as a Fundamental Right

2677. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: DR.MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken any concrete steps so far to make the right to free and compulsary elementary education a "Fundamental Right", as envisaged in their Common Minimum Programme;

(b) if so, what efforts/allocations were made in the current financial year to mobilise funds both at the Central and State levels; and

(c) whether Government have also gone into the legal aspect which may require amendment of the Constitution of India before declaring primary education as a "Fundamental Right"; if so, the details thereof?